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Maine Farmer.

S. L. BOARDMAN, Agricultural Editor.

Some Seasonable Notes.

The spring was so very early that it seems later than it really is. Last week and the first part of the present week, has been the busiest period for hoisting, in this State; and while it is not yet completed, some farmers have already begun haying. Indeed, the tendency has been of late years, to commence haying earlier than usual, as a consequence of the fact that most crops have not had time given them which would actually demand it. It is true, hand hoisting is a slow and somewhat expensive mode of proceeding, and if we could, to a considerate extent substitute horse labor in its place, we could grow these important crops—corn and potatoes—at a greater profit because at less expense. Early haying cuts upon the work of hoisting, which has often been left unfinished, in order that the man may be put into the haying field; and we know of no way to thoroughly perform hoisting but to plant earlier by preparing the land for hoist *the fall previous*. This plan we have repeatedly urged to our readers, and they should get ready for its adoption another fall; as it is one of the things we want to keep before our farmers. Corn and potatoes are too important crops to be neglected in this early period of growth, and this season the hoe should be kept going even to the middle of July, when it is not good hay weather. From what we can learn, these crops are looking well throughout the State, although in many places, corn is of small growth, the dry season and periods of cool weather being the cause.

The prospect for the hay crop is only an average one—but it must be remembered that this is a most favorable outlook. A good hay crop for Maine means a good deal, and ensures the wintering of our stock, a considerable quantity for shipment, and a prosperous season, the hay crop being the very basis and foundation of our agriculture. It has not been, however, a genuine grass year—so speak. The period has been of sufficient length, but May was dry, and old fields are especially thin and short. On newly seeded fields following a course of good manuring, grass is sure even with the present dry spring, to give a good yield.

Disease among Sheep.

Is there any remedy for sheep that are diseased in the head? Last winter I bought a flock of sheep on a farm near mine to stock, and I find this spring that some of them are diseased, run at the nose, cough and die. Can I do anything to save them? A. C. D.

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Paris Green.

Letter from a Michigan Farmer. Wishing to bring the contents of the following letter to the attention of every farmer in Maine we give it the prominence of our editorial columns. The writer, Mr. C. B. Pulsen was formerly a resident of this State, and he gives the result of several years' experience with the potato beetle and the use of Paris green, for the information of our farmers; who, fortunately may avail themselves of the knowledge gained by their western neighbors in dealing with this pest. Our correspondent writes from Berlin Springs, Mich.

What the *Ploughman* says regarding the cause of the failure of Chatsworth is in every particular incorrect. I will have occasion in later articles to give extracts of his article, but you will see that he does not say a word for the benefit of Maine farmers, and my friends in Somerset and Franklin counties, is regard to this pest; and say “that the use of PARIS GREEN, regardless of what other poisons, is the only sure remedy, only use it with due caution as you would any other poison—that is do not let it lie around where any body or anything can get at it but you.”

Apple blossoms are wet with dew, and blossoms show, mixed with potato or turnip (shorts) in the proportion of ONE THIRTYTHREE GREEN. I prefer the shorts, as it is a great saving of time to have less to do with the potato plants, and the earth will remain longer than the plaster, thus giving the bugs a good chance at it. I have saved the potato with one application, but two is better. Give it to the old plants, and as soon as this is done it will be placed before the public.

The *Ploughman* writes as if the editor had been to the green and carefully investigated the details of the best pest control in Germany, “along the Rhine.” It would be interesting to old beet sugar men to learn where “along the Rhine” the best sugar industry is, and know exactly where the beet sugar factory in Germany, but, as far as my ignorance goes, I am not aware of any sugar works worth noticing “along the Rhine.” The *Ploughman* has reference to the sugar beet in Germany, but, as far as I am concerned, it is a new article like the potato, on a large scale—one that will hold about a pint—with a tight fitting cover punched full holes. A light spring will be sufficient, and may go over the beet about half a day. Having had an experience of five or six years with this pestiferous insect, I know whereof I affirm.

Editorial Notes.

Secretaries of local agricultural societies will confer a favor by informing us of the time and place of holding their fall exhibitions, that we may give early announcements of the same. We are now revising our list for early publication which will help render it complete.

Farmers will notice the advertisement of the device for applying a liquid suspension of Paris green to potato bugs, which appears in this number of the *Farmer*. An examination of a large engraving showing its operation, indicate that it is well adapted for the purpose.

We are in receipt of a letter from our special correspondent, now among our friends and subscribers in Prince Edward Island, which we shall publish next week. We shall at any time be glad to receive communications from any of our readers in that Province, on its agricultural features and practices, with items of news and intelligence, condition of the crops, pests, and the season, &c.

Editorial Notes.

The plan suggested by Mr. Pulsen in his note in another place, for using dried wheat bran, while to a great degree of Paris green to the potato bugs, is a good one. The West, farmers can purchase cheap or damaged flour for the purpose, and many farms have about half a bushel, and may be used to the best advantage, because the same stroke of the pestiferous insects, as we cannot do here, shorts the next best thing, because H forms an adhesive substance for the poison. The mixture should be thoroughly prepared.

Attention to the cleanliness of the premises should be a leading matter with town and country residents now that the hot season is upon us. All kinds of rubbish, filth and litter should be removed at a distance from the dwelling, and the drainage pipe looked after, that they do not discharge their contents too near the house. Under-ground pipes should be provided, the spout which connects sink and kitchen stove should be furnished with dry brick, or some other ready absorbent, that such stoves may be utilized and the premises kept from dangerous exhibitions. Stables in connection with the domestic apartment of dwellings should be frequently cleaned with a strong solution of copperas, containing many crushed and broken pebbles, while moraines are built chiefly of angular stones or rocks. They do not believe in their formation by currents of water, as we most certainly do, which point he says the stones are in positions where any flood passing over the country “must sweep them away, or at least, have scattered them and destroyed their ridge-like character.” But this expression does not by any means contradict the theory that they were formed by currents of water washing the debris against a huge body of ice. They

Communications.

For the Maine Farmer.

The Beet Sugar Enterprise.

The *Massachusetts Ploughman* has given us its numbers for May 19th and 20th two weeks ago, and in the former, refers to the Sugar Enterprise, which, though they are nothing but a conglomeration of generalities, misinterpreted facts and wrong conclusions drawn from them, including with some of a rather contemptuous manner, what would be amusing through their bold assertions, if they were not well calculated to mislead those who have not had the opportunity to compare and verify them on the subject. These articles prove most conclusively that the *Ploughman* has no scientific knowledge nor practical experience, and has been wrong in his statement that the sugar beet has been proved impractical.

I will in the present article follow him up as closely as possible in his own furrow, using his own quoted authority and others as trustworthy, to show that much that has been said in the *Ploughman* is not true.

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